

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 01471 160805Z

45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 AGR-20

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 IGA-02 NIC-01 SAB-01 COA-02

DLOS-06 ACDA-19 CG-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CPR-02

DRC-01 /243 W

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R 151907Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2754

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USUN NEW YORK 547

UNCLAS CARACAS 1471

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR VE CS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT-ELECT OF COSTA RICA CALLS FOR LATIN AMERICA TO
UNITE TO OBTAIN HIGHER PRICES FOR ITS RAW MATERIALS

REF: CARACAS 1072

SUMMARY: VISITING PRESIDENT-ELECT OF COSTA RICA TOLD PRESS THAT
HE AGREES WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT PEREZ THAT VENEZUELA CANNOT SELL
OIL TO COSTA RICA AT LOWER PRICES THAN TO OTHER LATIN AMERICAN
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CARACA 01471 160805Z

COUNTRIES. ODUBER CRITICIZED THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE

AND URGED LATIN AMERICA TO UNITE ON SUPPORT OF VENEZUELA'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN HIGHER PRICES FOR ITS OIL AS A MEANS OF OBTAINING HIGHER PRICES FOR LATIN AMERICAN RAW MATERIALS. HE CALLED FOR LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO MEET TO STUDY THE SALE OF THEIR RAW MATERIALS AND SUGGESTED SUCH A MEETING COULD LEAD TO A MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT-ELECT DANIEL ODUBER OF COSTA RICA MADE A "STRICTLY PERSONAL AND PRIVATE VISIT" HERE FEBRUARY 13-15 WHICH WAS, ACCORDING TO ODUBER, AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND NOT AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ, A CLOSE FRIEND SINCE LATTER'S EXILE IN COSTA RICA IN THE 1950'S. ODUBER REPORTEDLY MET WITH PEREZ THREE TIMES DURING HIS VISIT. ODUBER HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT HOTEL TAMANACO FEBRUARY 14 IN WHICH HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) ODUBER AGREED WITH PEREZ THAT VENEZUELA CANNOT GRANT CERTAIN COUNTRIES PREFERENTIAL PETROLEUM PRICES BECAUSE OF ITS OPEC COMMITMENTS, AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET IF VENEZUELA WERE TO SELL ITS PETROLEUM TO COSTA RICA AT A LOWER PRICE. ODUBER SAID HE HADN'T DARED TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH PEREZ.

(B) ODUBER DENIED THAT THE RECENT VISIT TO VENEZUELA BY CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS TO OBTAIN LOWER PRICES FOR VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM HAD BEEN A FAILUJ (CARACAS 1072). "CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ AND I AGREE THAT LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY IS NECESSARY. VENEZUELA IS NOT ONLY FIGHTING TO RECEIVE MORE FOR ITS OIL BUT ALSO FOR US TO RECEIVE MORE FOR OUR RAW MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS."

(C) ODUBER INSISTED THAT LATIN AMERICA SHOULD SUPPORT VENEZUELA IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN HIGHER PRICES FOR THIRD WORLD PRODUCTS. "LATIN AMERICA DEMANDS JUSTICE IN ITS FOREIGN COMMERCE, NOT ALMS OR GIFTS."

(D) ODUBER SAID THAT AT THE FORTHCOMING MEXICO CITY MFM LATIN AMERICA WILL ASK THE U.S. TO REMEDY ITS OLD COMPLAINT OF UNJUST COMMERCIAL ARRANGEMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

(E) ODUBER CRITICIZED THE RECENT WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE AS "A CONFERENCE FOR THE RICH WHO WISH TO MAINTAIN THEIR HEGEMONY, AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO FALL INTO THAT TRAP."

(F) ODUBER STATED HE WILL WORK FOR CREATION OF A GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO DEFEND THEIR RAW MATERIALS AND THEIR "COMMON DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS." AS A FIRST STEP, ODUBER SUGGESTED A MEETING OF LA COUNTRIES AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL TO STUDY THE
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PAGE 03 CARACA 01471 160805Z

PROBLEM OF RAW MATERIALS SOLD AND MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS BOUGHT BY LA. THIS MEETING, HE SAID, MIGHT SUGGEST A MEETING OF LA PRESIDENTS TO STUDY THE PROBLEM FURTHER.

(G) ODUBER REGRETTED THAT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN BANANA PRODUCING COUNTRIES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO JOIN WITH ECUADOR TO FORM AN ORGANIZATION SIMILAR TO OPEC.

(H) CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ HAD REITERATED TO ODUBER HIS SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING A PETROLEUM REFINERY IN COSTA

RICA. ODUBER SUGGESTED THAT VENEZUELAN AND OTHER LA (I.E., MEXICAN) CAPITAL BE USED TO DEVELOP A PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX IN COSTA RICA. HE SAID THAT SUCH MIXED LA MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WOULD BE PREFERABLE SUBSTITUTIE FOR "IMPERIALIST" FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

(I) ODUBER STATED THAT ANY DECISION AS TO CUBA SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE OAS, AND THAT CUBA MUST FIRST EXPRESS ITS DESRE TO RETURN TO IT.

(J) ODUBER CONDEMNED THE OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE AND SAID HE OPPOSED ANY TYPE OF COUP D'ETAT.

(K) ODUBER SAID COSTA RICA SUPPORTS PANAMA'S POSITION ON THE PANAMA CANAL AND VENEZUELA'S POSITION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.

(1) ODUBER INVITED CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO VISIT COSTA RICA WHENEVER HE COULD.

2. ODUBER DEPARTS VENEZUELA FEBRUARY 15, REPORTEDLY FOR MIAMI, WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, AND WILL RETURN TO SAN JOSE BEFORE FEBRUARY 25.

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